UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Second session
Dakar, 30 November-11 December 1998

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Note by the secretariat

The second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification will be held from 30 November to 11 December at Dakar (Senegal). The present document contains some general information that may be helpful to participants. The session will be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Senegal in accordance with decision 28/COP.1 of the First Conference of the Parties and General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997.

1. Venue of the session

The Second Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification will be held in the Palais des Congrès of the Méridien Président Hotel, situated at the Pointe des Almadies, 15 minutes from the centre of Dakar:

Postal address: 8181 Dakar
Telephone: (221) 820 21 22/820 15 15
Fax: (221) 820 30 30
Telex: 31524/31525
Person to contact: Ms. Maguette Wade

The Conference will be opened on Monday 30 November 1998 at 3 p.m. in the Plenary Hall. The morning will be devoted to informal consultations. In addition to the Plenary Hall, another meeting room with simultaneous interpretation during normal working hours will be available. Other premises can also be used for informal meetings without interpretation subject to arrangements made with the secretariat. Working hours will normally be from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2. Conference secretariat

The head of the Conference secretariat is Mr. Hama Arba Diallo (Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention).

The secretariat can be reached at the following address:

Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,
11/13 Chemin des Anémones
1219 Châtelaine, Geneva (Switzerland)
Telephone: (41 22) 917 84 20/917 84 04
Fax: (41 22) 917 80 30/917 80 31
E-mail: secretariat@uncod.ch

3. National Organizing Committee (NOC)

The Government of Senegal has established a National Organizing Committee (NOC) consisting of members of all the ministerial departments involved, as well as representatives of non-governmental agencies. Its chairman is Mr. Amoudou Moctar Niang, Director-General of the Ecological Follow-Up Centre, and its address is rue Léon Gontrand Damas, B.P. 15532, Dakar FANN:

Telephone: (221) 825 80 66/825 80 67
Fax: (221) 825 81 68

Persons to contact:

Amadou Moctor Niang: E-mail: niang@cse.sn
Fatou Ba: E-mail: cdp@cse.sn
Racine Kane: E-mail: Kane@cse.sn
Papa Mawade Wade: E-mail: mawade@cse.sn

4. Hotel accommodation

NOC has already reserved the necessary accommodation in the town's principal hotels at extremely attractive rates:

Luxury Hotels:

Single room: 45,000 CFAF
Double room: 45,000 CFAF

4-star deluxe hotels:

Single room: 38,000 CFAF
Double room: 45,000 CFAF

4-star hotels:

Single room: 29,000 CFAF
Dcuble room: 36,000 CFAF

3-star hotels:

Single room: 20,000 CFAF
Double room: 23,000 CFAF
1 French franc = 100 CFAF

Reservation procedure: participants should address their requests to the Reservations Centre, indicating the category of hotel desired, at the following numbers:

Tel: (221) 823 10 19
(221) 825 80 66
(221) 825 80 67

Fax: (221) 822 11 17
(221) 825 81 68

E-mail: cdp@cse.sn

Reservations deadline: 1 November 1998. After this date the agreements concluded between the State and the hotels concerned authorize the latter to dispose of any vacant rooms as they see fit.

5. Accreditation

The credentials of representatives of Parties and the names of alternate representatives and advisers must be communicated either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. To ensure full participation in the work of the Conference, it is recommended that representatives of Parties should be provided with full powers to participate in the session and, if necessary, to serve as officers of the second session of the Conference of Parties and any sessional committees or working groups, as well as officers of the subsidiary bodies established by the Convention.

Credentials must be submitted to the secretariat of the Convention. The Bureau of the Second Session of the Conference of Parties will examine the credentials and report to the session.

Observer States and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations must also be accredited.

6. Immigration formalities

The Senegalese Government will ensure that immigration formalities are facilitated. Nevertheless, all participants in the Conference are requested to check whether they require a visa. If so, applications may be submitted, with reference to the Conference, to the nearest Senegalese Embassy or Consulate.

7. Customs regulations

Information on customs regulations in force in Senegal may be obtained from any Senegalese Embassy or Consulate.

8. Dakar airport

The Léopold Sédar SENGHOR airport is Dakar's international airport. A reception committee will be present in the airport throughout the Conference and an information and orientation office will be established and indicated by the Convention's logo.

Participants who have reserved their hotel room will be taken from the airport to their hotels by shuttle.

9. Transport

Since the Palais des Congrés is situated in an area in which there is insufficient public transport, a shuttle service will be arranged by NOC to provide transport for participants between the main hotels and the Conference site.

Details of this transport service as well as its cost will be decided upon in the near future in the light of reservations confirmed by participants.

10. Restaurants

The restaurants of the Méridian President Hotel will be open to participants. In addition, a large number of restaurants in the vicinity of the Conference Centre offer quality service at reasonable prices.

If justified by demand, fast food services will be organized by NOC.

11. Registration

Identity badges will be issued at the time of registration and participants are requested to wear them at all times, since they will be allowed access to the Palais des Congrès only upon their presentation. Registration will begin at the Conference site at the following times:

Friday 27 November 1998	-	morning from 10 a.m. to noon
	-	afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m.
Sunday 29 November 1998	-	afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m.

It will continue from 30 November 1998 on the basis of a timetable that will be announced. Details concerning the exact situation of the registration counter for national delegations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other observers, as well as for the media and the staff of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes, will be communicated before the Conference of the Parties is opened.

12. List of speakers

A list of speakers on the special segment as well as of those making other statements in Plenary will be opened at a time and subject to conditions which will be announced in the Journal of the General Assembly.

13. Medical services

A medical service is available in the Palais des Congrès. In addition, the National Organizing Committee will make the necessary arrangements to cope with any medical emergencies.

14. Telephone and fax services

An office offering telephone and fax facilities, which will be charged for, will remain open throughout the session at the Palais des Congrès for the convenience of delegations and other participants.

15. Additional services available in the Palais des Congrès for participants

Participants in the Conference will be able to use the various facilities available in the Palais des Congrès, namely, post office (stamps and letterboxes), bank, bar, and cafeteria and restaurant services.

16. Meeting and exhibition facilities

A limited number of meeting facilities will be available to participants for presentations, exhibits and informal meetings. Arrangements can be made through the secretariat on a first-come-first-served basis.

17. Press centre

An international press centre will be provided for accredited journalists. For information concerning accreditation, please contact:

Ms. Nada Osseiran

Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva (Switzerland)
Telephone: (41 22) 917 84 12
Fax: (41 22) 917 80 30/31
E-mail: nosseiran@unccd.ch

or

Mr. Michael Williams

Information Unit on Conventions (IUC)
CP 356
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva (Switzerland)
Telephone: (41 22) 979 92 42
Fax: (41 22) 797 34 64
E-mail: michael.williams@unep.ch

18. Additional events

A special calendar of any additional parallel events which may be organized in Dakar or in other parts of Senegal will be published. Excursions as well as cultural events are envisaged.

19. General information about Dakar

Direct flights:	Average duration of flight: 5½ hours from Paris and certain major European cities.
Vaccination:	None obligatory but anti-malaria treatment and vaccination against Yellow Fever are recommended.
Currency:	Franc CFA: 1 French franc = 100 Francs CFA
Climate:	Mild and warm (20 to 25° C)
Electricity:	220 volts, 50 hertz.
Local time:	GMT

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